

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT [441]

**Notice of Intended Action**

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code sections 234.6 and 249A.4, the Department of Human Services proposes to:

- Amend Chapter 75, “Conditions of Eligibility,” Chapter 77, “Conditions of Participation for Providers of Medical and Remedial Care,” Chapter 83, “Medicaid Waiver Services,” Chapter 133, “IV-A Emergency Assistance Program,” and Chapter 150, “Purchase of Service”;
- Rescind Chapter 152, “Contracting,” and adopt new Chapter 152, “Foster Group Care Contracting”;
- Amend Chapter 156, “Payments for Foster Care and Foster Parent Training”; and
- Rescind Chapter 157, “Purchase of Adoption Services,” Chapter 182, “Family-Centered Services,” Chapter 183, “Adult Support Services,” and Chapter 185, “Rehabilitative Treatment Services,” Iowa Administrative Code.

In a rule making published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on August 1, 2007, as **ARC 6098B**, the Department eliminated Medicaid coverage for rehabilitative treatment services, which previously funded most family-centered services, family preservation services, foster family care services, and foster group care services for children. Some of these services were subsumed into new Medicaid coverage for remedial services, which was adopted in a rule making published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on November 8, 2006, as **ARC 5514B**.



The Department adopted interim child welfare amendments that were published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 3, 2007, as **ARC 5651B**. In rule making published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on April 11, 2007, as **ARC 5819B**, the Department removed references to rehabilitative and nonrehabilitative family-centered, family preservation, family foster care, and group care services except as necessary to maintain the interim contracting arrangements.

In a rule making published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on June 6, 2007, as **ARC 5937B**, the Department adopted a new chapter of rules for family-centered child welfare services and established that rehabilitative and nonrehabilitative services under Chapter 182 would end by December 31, 2007. Providers for the new services were selected through competitive bidding.

In a rule making published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 2, 2008, as **ARC 6515B**, the Department extended the transition period for family-centered services until March 31, 2008, for the Council Bluffs service area only due to a delay in contracting for the new services. Since the transition to the new family-centered child welfare services has been completed, the proposed amendments rescind Chapter 182 and remove references to Chapter 182 in other rule chapters.

The Department no longer purchases family foster care supervision. Based on the case plan, a child in foster family care may get support from the contractor for family, safety, risk and permanency services (one of the family-centered child welfare services). The foster family may receive support through the Department's retention and recruitment contractor, the contractor for support for resource families, or the contractor for family, safety, risk, and permanency services. Department service workers are responsible for monthly visits and development of the family case plan, as addressed in Chapter 202.



Interim contracting arrangements for foster group care services continue. These amendments will move the rules necessary to develop and enforce these contracts from Chapter 185, “Rehabilitative Treatment Services,” into a new version of Chapter 152, rescind Chapter 185, and remove the remaining references to Chapter 185 in other rule chapters.

Chapter 157, “Purchase of Adoption Services,” is being rescinded because the Department no longer purchases these services. Home studies for adoptive parents are purchased through the statewide contractor for retention and recruitment. Prospective adoptive parents take the same training as prospective foster parents. Services to the child are provided in a variety of ways, as described above for foster family care.

Chapter 183, “Adult Support Services,” is being rescinded because the Department no longer purchases these services. Most services to adults are now provided through the county central points of coordination, through Medicaid targeted case management services provided under Charter 90, or through Medicaid home- and community-based services waivers. The remaining direct services provided to adults by Department service workers are covered under Chapter 131, “Social Casework Services.”

These amendments do not provide for waivers in specified situations. No contracts currently exist for purchasing services under Chapter 182 or Chapter 185. Requests for waiver of the other rules in this filing may be submitted under the Department’s general rule on exceptions at 441--1.8(17A,217).

Any interested person may make written comments on the proposed amendments on or before February 20, 2009. Comments should be directed to Mary Ellen Imlau, Bureau of Policy Analysis and Appeals, Department of Human Services, Hoover State Office Building, 1305 East Walnut Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0114. Comments may be sent by fax to (515)281-4980



or by E-mail to [policyanalysis@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:policyanalysis@dhs.state.ia.us).

The Department will also hold a public hearing for the purpose of receiving comments on these proposed rules on Friday, February 20, 2009, from 9 a.m. till noon at the Wallace Building Auditorium., 502 East Ninth Street, Des Moines, Iowa. Persons with disabilities requiring assistive services or devices to observe or participate should contact the Bureau of Policy Analysis and Appeals at (515) 281-8440 in advance of the scheduled date to request that appropriate arrangements be made.

These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code section 234.6.

The following amendments are proposed.

ITEM 1. Rescind subparagraph **75.1(35)“h”(4)**.

ITEM 2. Amend rule 441--77.12(249A) as follows:

**441--77.12(249A) Remedial services providers.** A provider of remedial services is eligible to participate in the medical assistance program when:

1. The provider is accredited by the mental health, mental retardation, developmental disabilities, and brain injury commission pursuant to 441--Chapter 24; or
2. The provider is was certified by the department as a provider of rehabilitative treatment services pursuant to 441--185.10(234) ~~as of August 31, before September 1, 2006;~~ or
3. The provider can demonstrate to the Iowa Medicaid enterprise that the provider has the skills and resources necessary to implement a member's treatment plan and remedial services implementation plan.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 249A.4 ~~and 2006 Iowa Acts, house File 2734, section 10, subsection 11.~~



ITEM 3. Amend subparagraph **77.46(3)“a”(1)** as follows:

(1) ~~Rehabilitative treatment~~ Remedial services ~~skill development~~ providers ~~certified in good standing~~ qualified under ~~441—185.10(234)~~ 441--77.12(249A).

ITEM 4. Amend subparagraph **77.46(4)“a”(2)** as follows:

(2) ~~Rehabilitative treatment~~ Remedial services ~~therapy and counseling~~ providers ~~certified in good standing~~ qualified under ~~441—185.10(234)~~ 77.12(249A).

ITEM 5. Rescind and reserve paragraph **83.62(3)“g.”**

ITEM 6. Amend paragraph **83.122(6)“d”** as follows:

d. A consumer may not receive children’s mental health waiver services and ~~any of the following~~ family foster care services under 441—Chapter 202 at the same time.

~~(1) Rehabilitative treatment services under 441—Chapter 185; or~~

~~(2) Family foster care under 441—Chapter 202.~~

ITEM 7. Rescind the definitions of “adolescent monitoring and outreach services,” “family assistance fund,” “family-centered services,” family-centered supportive services,” “family preservation services,” “foster care,” “protective day care,” and “wrap-around services or support funds” in rule **441--133.1(235)**.

ITEM 8. Amend rule **441--133.1(235)**, definition of “emergency assistance,” as follows:

“Emergency assistance” means any one or more of the following services provided in response to a IV-A emergency assistance application:

1. Family-centered child welfare services as set forth in ~~441—Chapters 182 and 185~~ Chapter 172.



~~2. Family preservation services as set forth in 441—Chapters 181 and 185.~~

~~3 2. Foster Shelter care as set forth in 441—Chapters ~~185~~ 156 and 202, except for~~  
~~placements of less than 48 hours.~~

~~4 3. Protective ~~day~~ child care as set forth in 441—Chapter 170.~~

~~5. Wrap-around services as set forth in 441—Chapter 179.~~

~~6 4. Adolescent Tracking, monitoring and ~~evaluation~~ outreach as set forth in 441—~~  
~~Chapter 151, Division ~~H~~ III.~~

ITEM 9. Amend rule **441--133.2(235)** as follows:

**441—133.2(235) Application.** An application for emergency assistance shall be made according to ~~441—Chapter 130 on Form SS-1120-0, Application for Social Services/IV-A~~  
~~Emergency Assistance~~ rule 441—130.2(234). An application shall be completed anytime a decision is made to provide emergency assistance or when an adult family member requests emergency assistance on behalf of a child.

**133.2(1)** The application shall be filed by a parent, except where both parents are absent or unwilling to apply on behalf of a child who meets all other eligibility conditions, in which case another adult member of the family with whom the child resides or has resided within the past six months acting on behalf of the child may file the application.

**133.2(2)** If the application is made on behalf of a child for whom the department has legal custody, the department worker may sign the application on behalf of the child.

ITEM 10. Amend subrule **133.3(4)** as follows:

**133.3(4) Service need.** The applicant must demonstrate a need for one or more of the emergency assistance services as follows:



- a. Family-centered child welfare services as established at ~~rules 441—182.2(234) and 441—185.2(234)~~ rule 441—172.12(234) or 441—172.22(234).
- b. ~~Family preservation services as established at rules 441—181.2(234) and 441—185.2(234).~~
- e. ~~b.~~ Foster Shelter care as established at ~~rules rule 441—202.2(234) and 441—185.2(234).~~
- d. ~~c.~~ Protective ~~day~~ child care as established at ~~rule 441—170.2(234)~~ 441--subparagraph 170.2(2)“b”(3).
- e. ~~Wrap-around funding as established at rule 441—179.2(234).~~
- f. ~~d.~~ Adolescent Tracking, monitoring and evaluation outreach as established at rule ~~441—151.22(235)~~ 441—151.33(232).

ITEM 11. Amend subrule **133.3(6)** as follows:

**133.3(6)** Financial eligibility. The applicant family:

- a. ~~is~~ Is receiving FIP, SSI, food ~~stamp~~ assistance benefits, or Medicaid in the month of the application, or
- b. ~~does~~ Does not have cash to provide needed emergency care or services as evidenced by the applicant ~~family having an~~ family's income ~~that, which~~ does not exceed 800 percent of the poverty guidelines established by the Office of Management and Budget.

ITEM 12. Amend rules 441--133.4(235) and 441--133.5(235) as follows:

**441—133.4(235) Method of service provision.** Except for ~~wrap-around~~ tracking, monitoring, and outreach services, services shall be provided through department workers or through purchase of service agreements with providers that are approved by the department as qualified



to provide specified services and ~~who~~ have a current contract with the department of human services to provide services. ~~Organizations or persons selected by the department to provide services and support pursuant to an approved application for wrap-around funding shall be considered eligible providers.~~

**441—133.5(235) Duration of services.** Services to families and children provided through the emergency assistance program as a result of a single application may be provided for either a period not to exceed 12 months, or until there is no longer a need for services according to eligibility criteria for the specified services, whichever occurs first. ~~Family-centered supportive services, family assistance fund services, and wrap-around services shall be discontinued when the funds allocated to those services are obligated or expended as set forth at rules 441—182.3(234), 441—181.3(234), and 441—179.11(234).~~

ITEM 13. Amend paragraphs **150.3(3)“j”** and **150.3(3)“m,”** as follows:

j. Client reports. The provider shall maintain the following client records, ~~except when providing services as described in 441—Chapter 182, for which the requirements in 441—subrules 185.10(4), 185.10(5) and 185.10(6) shall apply, as specified in rule 441—182.7(234):~~

(1) to (3) No change.

m. Maintenance of client records. Records for clients served through a purchase of service contract must be retained by the provider for a period of three years after service to the client terminates, ~~except for services described in 441—Chapter 182, for which the requirements of rule 441—182.7(234) shall apply.~~

ITEM 14. Rescind and reserve paragraph **150.3(4)“c.”**

ITEM 15. Amend paragraph **150.3(6)“c”** as follows:



c. Family-centered services. For family-centered services, the provisions in ~~rules 441—182.3(234) and 441—182.4(234)~~ rule 172.3(234) relating to approval, authorization, and referral shall apply.

ITEM 16. Rescind **441—Chapter 152**.

ITEM 17. Adopt the following **new** 441—Chapter 152:

## CHAPTER 152

### FOSTER GROUP CARE CONTRACTING

#### PREAMBLE

This chapter sets forth the contracting process used for providers of foster group care services on or after November 1, 2006. These rules outline the contracting process, provider requirements, service authorization procedures, documentation requirements, and service termination and appeal procedures. The rules also establish standards for rate-setting and payment mechanisms associated with group care services and for provider monitoring, audits, and sanctions. The term of the contract is limited to no more than six years pursuant to 11--Chapters 106 and 107. Refer to 441—Chapter 156 for additional program requirements.

#### **441—152.1(234) Definitions.**

“Affiliates” means persons having an overt or covert relationship such that any one of them directly or indirectly controls or has the power to control another.

“Authorized representative,” within the context of rule 441—152.9(234), means that person appointed to carry out audit procedures, including an assigned auditor, fiscal consultant, or agent contracted for a specific audit or audit procedure.

“Child” means a person under 18 years of age or a person 18 or 19 years of age who



meets the criteria in Iowa Code section 234.1.

“Claim” means each record the department receives that tells the amount of requested payment and the service rendered by a provider to a child and family.

“Client” means a child who has been found to be eligible for foster group care services through the Iowa department of human services.

“Confidence level” means the probability that an overpayment or underpayment rate determined from a random sample of charges is less than or equal to the rate that exists in the universe from which the sample was drawn.

“Contract” means formal written agreement between the Iowa department of human services and a provider of foster group care services.

“Contract monitor” means a department employee who is assigned to assist in developing, monitoring, and evaluating a contract and to provide related technical assistance.

“Department” means the Iowa department of human services.

“Extrapolation” means that the total dollars of overpayment or underpayment will be estimated by using sample data meeting the confidence level requirement.

“Family” for purposes of child welfare service delivery, may include the following:

1. The natural or adoptive parents, stepparents, and children who reside in the same household.
2. A child who lives with an adult related to the child within the fourth degree of consanguinity and the adult relatives within the fourth degree of consanguinity in the child’s household who are responsible for the child’s supervision. Relatives within the fourth degree of consanguinity include: full or half siblings, aunts, uncles, great-aunts, great-uncles, nieces, great-nieces, nephews, great-nephews, grandparents, great-grandparents, great-great-grandparents, and



first cousins.

3. A child who lives alone or who resides with a person or persons not legally responsible for the child's support.

"Fiscal record" means a tangible and legible history that documents the criteria established for financial and statistical records as set forth in subrule 152.2(7).

"Grant" means an award of funds to develop specific programs or achieve specific outcomes.

"Host area" means:

1. The department service area where the provider's corporate office is located, or
2. The service area designated by the chief of the bureau of purchased services when the provider's corporate office is out of state.

"Juvenile court officer" means a person appointed as a juvenile court officer or chief juvenile court officer under Iowa Code chapter 602.

"Level of care" means a type of foster group care services that is differentiated by the ratio of staff to children. There are three levels of foster group care services:

1. Community-level group care (service code D1), which requires a minimum staff-to-client-ratio of 1 to 8 during prime programming time.

2. Comprehensive-level group care (service code D2), which requires a minimum staff-to-client ratio of 1 to 5 during prime programming time.

3. Enhanced comprehensive –level group care (service code D3), which requires a minimum staff-to-client ratio of 1 to 3 during prime programming time.

"Nonprime programming time" means any period of the day other than prime programming time and sleeping time.



“Overpayment” means any payment or portion of a payment made to a provider that is incorrect according to the laws and rules applicable to foster group care services and results in a payment greater than that to which the provider is entitled.

“Prime programming time” means any period of the day when special attention, supervision, or treatment is necessary; for example, from awakening clients in the morning until their departure for school, during meals, after school, during transition between activities, evenings and bedtime, and on non-school days such as weekends, holidays, and school vacations.

“Probation” means a specified period of conditional participation in the provision of foster group care services.

“Provider” means any natural person, company, firm, association, or other legal entity that is seeking a contract or is under contract with the department pursuant to this chapter.

“Random sample” means a systematic (or every “nth” unit) sample for which each item in the universe has an equal probability of being selected.

“Referral worker” means the department worker or juvenile court officer who refers the case to a foster group care provider and who is responsible for carrying out the follow-up activities of determining client eligibility and ensuring that service authorization is completed.

“Service authorization” means the process of determining service necessity and the level of care and number of units of service-to be provided to a child.

“Service record” means an individual, tangible, and legible file that records service-related activities set forth in rule 441—152.2(6).

“Site” means a location from which services are delivered or where staff reports or records are kept. In the foster group care programs, each separately licensed location is a site.



“Sleeping time” means any period of the day in which clients are normally sleeping.

“Suspension of payments” means the withholding of all payments due a provider until the resolution of the matter in dispute between the provider and the department.

“Underpayment” means any payment or portion of a payment not made to a provider for services delivered to eligible recipients according to the laws and rules applicable to the foster group care services program and to which the provider is entitled.

“Unit of service” means one day.

“Universe” means all items (claims) submitted by a specific provider for payment during a specific period, from which a random sample will be drawn.

“Withholding of payments” means a reduction or adjustment of the amounts paid to a provider on pending and subsequently submitted claims for purposes of offsetting overpayments previously made to the provider.

#### **441—152.2(234) Conditions of participation.**

**152.2(1)** Provider licensure. The department shall enter into a contract for foster group care services only when the provider’s facility has achieved full licensure as follows:

a. A facility providing community-level group care shall be licensed:

- (1) As a community residential facility pursuant to 441--Chapter 114; or
- (2) As a comprehensive residential facility pursuant to 441--Chapter 115; or
- (3) Under comparable standards by the state in which the facility is located.

b. A facility providing comprehensive-level group care shall be licensed:

- (1) As a comprehensive residential facility pursuant to 441--Chapter 115; or
- (2) Under comparable standards by the state in which the facility is located.

c. A facility providing enhanced comprehensive-level group care shall be licensed



- (1) As a comprehensive residential facility pursuant to 441--Chapter 115; or
- (2) Under comparable standards by the state in which the facility is located.

**152.2(2)** Provider staffing. At a minimum, all providers shall meet the requirements for staff qualifications, training, and number of staff pursuant to 441--Chapter 114 or as identified in appendices to Form 470-3052, Foster Group Care Services Contract.

a. All foster group care programs shall provide an appropriate number of hours of prime programming time sufficient to meet the child welfare service needs of the children served in the program.

b. Staffing during prime programming time, non-prime programming time, and sleeping time shall be sufficient to meet the group care maintenance needs of the children served in the program.

**152.2(3)** Services provided. The provider shall comply with the requirements for services to be provided, as described on Form 470-3051, Foster Group Care Services Contract Face Sheet, and appendices to Form 470-3052, Foster Group Care Services Contract. These services shall at a minimum meet the rules found in 441--Chapter 156 and in 441--Chapter 114 or 441—Chapters 114 and 115, as applicable, or the contract may be terminated.

**152.2(4)** Provider charges. A provider shall not charge departmental clients more than it receives for the same foster group care services provided to nondepartmental clients. The provider shall agree not to require any fee from departmental clients unless a fee is required by the department and is consistent with federal regulation and state policy.

**152.2(5)** Compliance with the law. The provider and its employees, agents, and subcontractors shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, ordinances, regulations, and orders when performing services under the contract.



a. Drug-free workplace. The provider shall operate a drug-free workplace.

b. Use of funds. The provider shall:

(1) Agree that federally appropriated funds shall not be paid on behalf of the department or provider to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with:

1. The award of any federal contract,

2. The making of any federal grant,

3. The making of any federal loan,

4. The entering into of any cooperative agreement, or

5. The extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any federal contract, grant, loan or cooperative agreement.

(2) Ensure that no funds received or expended will be used in any way to promote or oppose unionization.

**152.2(6)** Maintenance of service records. A provider shall maintain complete and legible records as required in this subrule. The provider's client service records and case files for foster group care services shall comply with the requirements of this subrule and with the licensing requirements related to record-keeping pursuant to 441--Chapter 114.

a. The provider shall establish and maintain confidential, individual service records for each client receiving foster group care services. The service records, specifically the daily logs, must adequately support the provision of child welfare services and group care maintenance as defined in rule 441—156.1(234). At a minimum, the service record shall include those items identified in rule 441—114.11(237) and the following:



- (1) Additional reports, if requested by the referral worker; and
- (2) Form 470-3055, Referral and Authorization for Child Welfare Services.

b. If individual case files include service records for services other than foster group care services, the provider has the responsibility to maintain the client records in compliance with all applicable rules.

c. The provider shall retain service records for clients receiving foster group care services for a period of not less than five years following the date of final payment or completion of any required audit or review, whichever is later. If any litigation, claim, negotiation, audit, review, or other action involving the records has been started before the expiration of the five-year period, the records must be retained until the later of:

- (1) The completion of the action and resolution of all issues which arise from it, or
- (2) The end of the regular five-year period.

d. Failure to maintain records or failure to make records available to the department or to its authorized representatives upon request may result in a notice of violation and recoupment of payments, pursuant to rules 441--152.9(234) and 441--152.10(234)

**152.2(7)** Maintenance of financial and statistical records. The provider shall maintain sufficient financial and statistical records, including program and census data, to document the validity of the reports submitted to the department. The records shall be available for review at any time during normal business hours by department personnel, the department's fiscal consultant, and state or federal audit personnel.

a. At a minimum, financial and statistical records shall include all revenue and expenses supported by a provider's general ledger and documentation on file in the provider's office.

These records include, but are not limited to:



- (1) Payroll information.
  - (2) Capital asset schedules.
  - (3) All canceled checks, deposit slips, invoices (paid and unpaid).
  - (4) Audit reports (if any).
  - (5) Board of directors minutes (if applicable).
  - (6) Loan agreements and other contracts.
  - (7) Reviewable, legible census reports and documentation of units of service provided to department clients that identify the individual client and are kept on a daily basis and summarized on a monthly report.
  - (8) For nondepartment clients, sufficient documentation of utilization to establish a complete unit of service count.
- b. The provider shall maintain the following documentation for each program.
- (1) List of all staff and supervisors providing foster group care services and their qualifications.
  - (2) The number of staff hired and terminated in the year to date.
- c. The documentation prepared by the provider shall be retained for use when any financial report is prepared and for review by the department's fiscal consultant. Financial records must be retained for five years from the date of report submission or final payment of services.
- d. Independent audits. When a provider has an audit conducted, a firm not related to the provider shall conduct the audit. The provider shall submit a copy of the independent audit report to the bureau of purchased services within 30 days of receipt of the report. The bureau shall maintain the report and provide a copy of the report to the fiscal consultant.



**152.2(8)** Special-purpose organizations. A provider may establish a separate, special-purpose organization to conduct certain client-related or non-client-related activities on behalf of the provider. (For example, a provider may establish a development foundation to assume the provider's fund-raising activity.) Even if the provider does not own the organization (e.g., a nonprofit, non-stock-issuing corporation) and has no common governing body membership, a separate special-purpose organization shall be considered a related party for purposes of this chapter when one of the following applies:

a. The provider controls the organization through contracts or other legal documents that give the provider the authority to direct the organization's activities, management, and policies.

b. For all practical purposes, the provider is the primary beneficiary of the organization's activities. The provider shall be considered the special-purpose organization's primary beneficiary if one or more of the following circumstances exist:

(1) The organization has solicited funds on the provider's behalf with provider approval and substantially all funds so solicited were contributed with the intent of benefiting the provider.

(2) The provider has transferred some of its resources to the organization, substantially all of whose resources are held for the benefit of the provider.

(3) The provider has assigned certain of its functions to a special-purpose organization that is operating primarily for the benefit of the provider.

**152.2(9)** Certification by department of transportation.

a. If the provider furnishes public transit service as defined in rule 761—910.1(324A), the provider shall annually submit to the contract monitor information regarding compliance with or exemption from public transit coordination requirements as found in Iowa Code chapter 324A



and department of transportation rules in 761—Chapter 910. This information shall include:

(1) Form 020107, Certification Application for Coordination of Public Transit Services, which the contract monitor shall submit to the department of transportation; and

(2) A copy of an ACORD Certificate of Insurance or similar self-insurance documentation, as applicable.

b. If a provider believes it does not furnish public transit service as defined in rule 761—910.1(324A) and therefore is exempt from the requirements in paragraph “a,” the provider shall submit Form 020107 with only Section 1 completed when the provider enters into a new contract.

c. If a provider that has furnished public transit service as defined in rule 761—910.1(324A) ceases to do so, the provider becomes exempt from the requirements in paragraph “a.”

d. If an exempt provider begins to furnish public transit service as defined in rule 761—910.1(324A), the provider shall inform the contract monitor within 30 days of the change and shall adhere to the procedures in paragraph “a.”

e. Failure of the provider to cooperate in obtaining or providing the required documentation of compliance or exemption is grounds for denial or termination of the contract.

**152.2(10)** Copyright and patents. The activities and results of contract activity may be published subject to confidentiality requirements.

**441—152.3(234) Determination of rates.** Rates for a foster group care service effective on or after November 1, 2006, shall be based on the historical payment rate negotiated between the provider and the department and be calculated based on rule 441--156.9(234).

**152.3(1)** Negotiation of rates. Rates for foster group care services effective on or after



November 1, 2006, must be established in accordance with this subrule except as provided for at subrule 152.3(4).

a. All historical rate negotiations made under the former rehabilitative treatment and supportive services program on or after February 1, 1998, remain true and valid.

b. The scope of negotiations is limited solely to the rate to be paid for each service.

c. No other items, such as, but not limited to, changes in staff qualifications, service definition, required components, allowable costs or any licensing or other contractual requirements can be the subject of negotiations or used as a basis for changing rates.

d. The service area manager of the host area is responsible for the negotiation of rates for each provider whose contract for foster group care services is administered by the host area, regardless of where the services are provided. Only the service area manager of the host area may approve the rates negotiated for a provider, except as provided in subparagraph 152.3(4).

(1) The service area manager of the host area shall take into consideration the other service areas served by a provider when negotiating a rate for a service provided in multiple service areas.

(2) When a service is provided only in a non-host area, the two service area managers shall determine which one will negotiate the rate for that service.

e. The service area manager of the host area and the provider are mutually responsible for initiating the rate negotiation process. Negotiations may be conducted in a manner acceptable to both parties, but shall be conducted face to face upon the request of either party.

f. At the initiation of the rate negotiation process, the provider must disclose all relevant subcontractual and related-party relationships involved in the provision of group care services

g. Negotiated rates shall not exceed any rate ceiling established or authorized by the



legislature.

h. Once a negotiated rate is established, it shall not be changed or renegotiated, except in the following circumstances:

- (1) Rates may be changed when funds are appropriated for an across-the-board increase.
- (2) Rates may be changed by mandated across-the-board decreases.

**152.3(2)** New service. When a prospective provider contracts to provide a foster group care service or an existing provider adds a new foster group care service on or after November 1, 2006, the rate for the new service shall be established based on a payment rate negotiated with the provider.

a. The starting point for negotiated rates shall be the weighted average for each service as of July 1, 1997, as previously established in accordance with rule 441--subrule 185.109(1) in effect at that time, and further calculated based on rule 441--156.9(234). These rates shall become the established weighted average rates for each service code as described in 441--Chapter 156 and the appendices of the foster group care contract.

(1) The rate for community-level group care child welfare service is \$8.43 per unit of service.

(2) The rate for community-level group care maintenance is \$50.16 per unit of service.

(3) The rate for comprehensive-level group care child welfare service is \$10.13 per unit of service.

(4) The rate for comprehensive-level group care maintenance is \$60.31 per unit of service.

(5) The rate for enhanced comprehensive-level group care child welfare service is \$13.36 per unit of service.



(6) The rate for enhanced comprehensive-level group care maintenance is \$79.55 per unit of service.

b. In the event the department and a new provider or an existing provider adding a new foster group care service are unable to reach agreement on a rate for a service within 60 days of initiating rate negotiations, a rate resolution process may be used. If no rate is agreed upon within 60 days of initiation of a rate resolution process, no rate shall be established and the services in question shall not be part of any approved contract for group care services.

**152.3(3) Interruptions in a program.**

a. The rate for a new provider shall remain the same as the rate established for the former provider if:

(1) A provider assumes the delivery of a program from a related-party provider, or

(2) The difference between the former provider and the new provider is a change in name or a change in the legal form of ownership (i.e., a change from partnership to corporation).

b. If a provider ceases to contract for and provide a foster group care service on or before October 31, 2006, and before the calculation of new rates according to rule 441--156.9(234), the rate in effect when the contract ceased shall be used to calculate the new rates to be used as the starting point in negotiations.

c. If a provider ceases to contract for and provide a foster group care service after a rate has been established in accordance with rule 441--156.9(234) and then decides to again contract for and provide the service, the rate shall be established at the rate in effect when the service was interrupted.

**152.3(4) Exception to rate policy.** When a provider not located in Iowa has been granted an exception to these rules based upon another state's requirement its providers be paid the same



rate they are paid for clients from that state, the exception shall continue in effect as written for the life of the contract

**152.3(5)** Across-the-board cuts. Payment under the contract may be subject to across-the-board cuts pursuant to Iowa Code section 8.31.

**441—152.4(234) Initiation of contract proposal.** All potential providers have a right to request a contract.

**152.4(1)** Initial contact. The initial contact shall be between the potential provider and the bureau of purchased services.

a. At the beginning of the contract development process, the bureau shall give the potential provider:

(1) Information about the contracting process; and

(2) Instructions on how to access the foster group care services provider handbook electronically.

b. The provider shall sign Form 470-3057, Verification of Receipt, at the end of the contract development process to verify receipt of information on how to access the handbook.

**152.4(2)** Contract proposal development. When the bureau of purchased services determines that a new contract is to be developed, a contract monitor shall be assigned to assist in contract development and processing. The contract monitor shall assist the applicant in the completion of the contract proposal and required fiscal information. The contract proposal shall include all of the following:

a. Form 470-3051, Foster Group Care Services Contract Face Sheet.

b. Form 470-3404, Foster Group Care Services Negotiated Rate Establishment Amendment. This form need not be completed until the completion of the rate negotiation



process, but the contract proposal will not be acted upon until the form is completed and attached to the contract proposal.

c. Form 470-3052, Foster Group Care Services Contract, or Form 470-3053, Amendment to Foster Group Care Services Contract.

**152.4(3)** Contract proposal approval. The department shall review all complete proposed contracts for compliance with state and federal requirements.

a. The applicant shall submit four copies of the contract proposal to the assigned contract monitor 60 calendar days in advance of the desired effective date of the contract.

b. Submission within the time frame does not ensure the effective date of the contract. The department shall give the applicant a notice and explanation in writing of any delay in the approval process.

c. The contract monitor shall forward four signed copies of the contract proposal to the bureau of purchased services within four weeks of receipt.

d. Before the contract can be effective, it shall be approved and signed by the following persons:

- (1) An authorized representative of the provider.
- (2) The service area manager, who shall make a decision within one week of receipt.
- (3) The director of the department or the director's designee, who shall make a decision within 15 days of receipt.

**152.4(4)** Rejection of contract proposal. The department shall give the applicant a notice and explanation in writing of the reasons for rejection of the contract proposal the within ten working days of the decision. The following criteria may cause a proposed contract or proposed contract amendment to be rejected:



- a. The proposed contract does not meet applicable rules, regulations, or guidelines.
- b. The applicant has falsified any information required as a condition of participation.
- c. Licenses submitted as a condition of participation in the contract process have never been approved, or have been revoked or suspended.
- d. The provider fails to provide notification within seven days of any changes that may significantly affect the licenses submitted as a condition of contracting.
- e. The department and the provider fail to reach agreement on negotiated rates.

**441—152.5(234) Contract.** All providers shall enter into a contract with the department using Form 470-3052, Foster Group Care Services Contract.

**152.5(1) Contract effective date.** When the agreed-upon contract conditions have been met, the effective date of a new contract, a renewed contract, or an amendment to add a new service code to the contract is the day following signature of the director of the department or the director's designee, unless the provider and the department agree to a later specified date.

- a. The contract shall be effective only after the provider is licensed to provide foster group care services as described in subrule 152.2(1).
- b. The contract shall be effective only when signed by all parties as required by paragraph 152.4(3)“d.”

**152.5(2) Liability for payment.** The department shall not be liable for payment for any programs or services before:

- a. The contract effective date, or
- b. The effective date of the rate for the program or service.

**152.5(3) Term of contract.** Pursuant to the provisions of 11--Chapters 106 and 107, the term of the contract is limited to no more than six years from the effective date of the contract.



**441—152.6(234) Client eligibility and referral.**

**152.6(1)** Determination of eligibility. The department shall determine a child's eligibility for foster group care services. The department shall not make payment for foster group care services provided before eligibility determination and service authorization.

**152.6(2)** Court order. If a child and family have been referred to the department and the department has not authorized foster group care services, but the services have been ordered by the juvenile court, the department shall make payment subject to availability of authorized funds.

**152.6(3)** Service authorization. Any change in the level of care or increase in the number of units or duration of foster group care services shall be authorized by the department.

**441—152.7(234) Billing procedures.** At the end of each month, the provider shall prepare Form 470-0020, Purchase of Service Provider Invoice, for contractual services provided during the month. Separate invoices shall be prepared for each county from which clients were referred. Each invoice shall contain claims for only one month of service. A separate invoice is required for each separate month of service if the service spans more than one month.

**152.7(1)** Submission of invoices. Complete invoices shall be sent to the department local office responsible for the client for approval and forwarding for payment. The time limit for submission of original invoices shall be 90 days from the date of service, except at the end of the state fiscal year when claims for services through June 30 shall be submitted by August 10.

**152.7(2)** Resubmittal of rejected claims. Valid claims that were originally submitted within the time limit specified in subrule 152.7(1) but were rejected because of an error shall be resubmitted as soon as corrections can be made.

**152.7(3)** Payment. The invoices shall be subject to audit and adjustment by the department. Within 60 days of the date of receipt of a valid invoice, the department shall make



payment in full of all claims concerning foster group care services rendered to clients.

**441—152.8(234) Contract management.** During the contract period, the assigned contract monitor designated in the contract shall be the contract liaison between the department and the provider.

**152.8(1)** The provider shall contact the contract monitor on all interpretations and problems relating to the contract and the contract monitor shall follow the issues through to their resolution.

**152.8(2)** The contract monitor shall also monitor performance under the contract and shall provide or arrange for technical assistance to improve the provider's performance if needed. Form 470-0670, Report of On-Site Visit, shall be used to monitor performance under the contract.

**152.8(3)** The contract monitor shall make at least one on-site visit to each provider during the term of the provider's contract. The on-site visit shall be coordinated with on-site visits scheduled to fulfill requirements for provider reviews, licensing, or other on-site visits required by the department. Site visits to out-of-state providers shall be made at the discretion of the service area responsible for administration of the contract.

**441—152.9(234) Provider reviews.** The department may review any provider at its discretion at any time. Records generated and maintained by the department or its fiscal agent may be used by reviewers and in all proceedings of the department.

**152.9(1)** Review of provider records. The department shall have the authority to conduct a scheduled or an unannounced site visit to evaluate the adequacy of service records in compliance with the policies and procedures for foster group care services.

**152.9(2)** Purpose. Upon proper identification, authorized representatives of the



department shall have the right to review the service and fiscal records of the provider to determine whether:

- a. The department has accurately paid claims for services.
- b. The provider has furnished the services.
- c. The provider has retained service records and fiscal records, as described in subrules 152.2(6) and 152.2(6), that substantiate claims submitted for payment during the review period.
- d. Expenses reported to the department have been handled as required under subrule 152.2(8).

**152.9(3) Method.** The department shall select the appropriate method of conducting a review and shall protect the confidential nature of the records being reviewed. The provider may be required to furnish records to the department. The provider may select the method of delivering any requested records to the department. Review procedures may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (1) Comparing service and fiscal records with each claim.
- (2) Interviewing clients and employees of providers.

**152.9(4) Sampling.** The department's procedures for reviewing a provider's service records may include the use of random sampling and extrapolation. When these procedures are used, all sampling will be performed within acceptable statistical methods, yielding not less than a 95 percent confidence level.

- a. Findings. The review findings generated through the review procedure shall constitute prima facie evidence in all department proceedings of the number and amount of requests for payment as submitted by the provider.
- b. Extrapolation. Findings of the sample will be extrapolated to the universe for the



review period. The total of the payments determined to be in error in the review sample shall be divided by the total payments in the reviewed sample to calculate the percentage of dollars paid in error. This sample error payment rate shall then be multiplied by the total dollars in the review universe from which the review sample was selected to determine the extrapolated overpayment.

c. Disagreement with findings. When the provider disagrees with the department's review findings, and the findings have been generated through sampling and extrapolation, the provider may present evidence to show that the sample was invalid. The burden of proof of compliance rests with the provider. The evidence may include a 100 percent review of the universe of provider records used by the department in the drawing of the department's sample.

This review shall:

- (1) Be arranged and paid for by the provider.
- (2) Be conducted by a certified public accountant.
- (3) Demonstrate that bills and records not reviewed in the department's sample complied with program regulations and requirements.
- (4) Be submitted to the department with all supporting documentation.

**152.9(5) Actions based on review findings.**

a. The department shall report the results of a review of provider records to concerned parties consistent with the provisions of 441—Chapter 9.

b. When an overpayment is found, the department may do one or more of the following:

- (1) Request repayment in writing.
- (2) Impose sanctions provided for in rule 441—152.10(234).
- (3) Investigate and refer the matter to an agency empowered to prosecute.



**441—152.10(234) Sanctions against providers.** Failure to meet the requirements relevant to provider contracting, financial record-keeping, billing and payment, and client record-keeping may subject providers to sanctions.

**152.10(1)** Grounds for sanction. The department may impose sanctions against a provider for committing one or more of the following actions:

a. Failing to provide and maintain the quality of the services to children and families within established standards, including:

(1) Failing to meet standards required by state or federal law for licensure.

(2) Failing to correct deficiencies in provider operations after receiving notice of these deficiencies from the department.

(3) Engaging in a course of conduct or performing an act that is in violation of state or federal regulations, or continuing that conduct following notification that it should cease.

(4) Violating any laws, regulations, or code of ethics governing the conduct of occupations or professionals subject to this chapter.

(5) Receiving a formal reprimand or censure by an association of the provider's peers for unethical practices.

(6) Being suspended or terminated from participation in another governmental program such as, but not limited to, workers' compensation or Medicaid remedial services.

(7) Committing negligent practice resulting in client death or injury.

b. Failing to disclose or make available to the department or its authorized agent records of services provided to a child and family and records of payments made for those services.

c. Engaging in deceptive billing practices, such as:

(1) Presenting or causing to be presented for payment any false or deceptive claim for



services.

(2) Submitting or causing to be submitted false information for the purpose of obtaining greater compensation than that to which the provider is legally entitled.

d. Submitting or causing to be submitted false information to meet service authorization requirements.

e. Inducing, furnishing or otherwise causing the child or family to receive foster group care services that are not authorized (over utilization of services).

f. Rebating or accepting a fee or portion of a fee or a charge for referrals of a child or family.

g. Failing to repay or arrange for the repayment of identified overpayments or other erroneous payments.

**152.10(2)** Notice of violation. Should the department have information that indicates that a provider may have submitted bills or been practicing in a manner inconsistent with the program requirements, or may have received payment for which the provider may not be properly entitled, the department shall notify the provider of the discrepancies noted.

a. Notification shall set forth:

(1) The nature of the discrepancies or violations.

(2) The known dollar value of the discrepancies or violations.

(3) The method of computing the dollar value.

(4) Further actions to be taken or sanctions to be imposed by the department.

(5) Any actions required of the provider.

b. The provider shall have 15 days after the date of the notice and before the department action to show cause why the action should not be taken.



**152.10(3) Sanctions.** The following sanctions may be imposed on providers based on the grounds specified in subrule 152.10(1).

- a. A term of probation for provision of foster group care services.
- b. Termination from participation in the provision of foster group care services.
- c. Suspension from provision of foster group care services.
- d. Suspension or withholding of payments to provider.
- e. Review of 100 percent of the provider's claims before payment.
- f. Referral to the state licensing board for investigation.
- g. Referral of the matter to appropriate federal or state legal authorities for investigation and prosecution under applicable federal or state laws.
- h. Suspension of foster group care services licensure.
- i. Termination of foster group care services licensure.

**152.10(4) Imposition and extent of sanction.** The department shall determine what sanction to impose. The following factors shall be considered in determining the sanction or sanctions to be imposed:

- a. Seriousness of the offense.
- b. Extent of violations.
- c. History of prior violations.
- d. Prior imposition of sanctions.
- e. Prior provision of technical assistance.
- f. Pattern of failure to follow program rules.
- g. Whether a lesser sanction will be sufficient to remedy the problem.
- h. Actions taken or recommended by peer review groups or licensing bodies.



**152.10(5) Scope of sanction.**

a. The sanction may be applied to all known affiliates of a provider. Each decision to include an affiliate shall be made on a case-by-case basis after giving due regard to all relevant factors and circumstances. The violation, failure, or inadequacy of performance may be imputed to a person with whom the violator is affiliated where the conduct was accomplished in the course of official duty or was effectuated with the knowledge or approval of that person.

b. When there are grounds for sanction pursuant to subrule 152.10(1) against a provider facility, campus, or site, the department may suspend or terminate the provision of foster group care services by:

- (1) The provider; or
- (2) The specific facility, campus, or site; or
- (3) Any individual person within the provider's organization who is responsible for the violation.

c. No provider shall submit claims for payments to the department for any services provided by any facility, campus, site, or person within the organization that has been suspended or terminated from provision of foster group care services except for those services provided before the suspension or termination.

d. Suspension or termination from provision of foster group care services shall preclude submission of claims to the department for payment for any services provided after suspension or termination, whether submitted personally or through the provider.

**152.10(6) Suspension or withholding of payments pending a final determination.** When the department has notified a provider of a violation pursuant to subrule 152.10(2) or paragraph 152.9(5)"b" and has demanded repayment of an identified overpayment, the department may



withhold payments on pending and subsequently received claims in an amount reasonably calculated to approximate the amounts in question or may suspend payment pending a final determination. When the department intends to withhold or suspend payments, it shall notify the provider in writing.

**152.10(7)** Notice of sanction. When a provider has been sanctioned, the department shall notify as appropriate the applicable professional society, board of registration or licensure, and federal or state agencies of the findings made and the sanctions imposed.

**441—152.11(234)** **Appeals of departmental actions.** Providers may appeal decisions of the department other than rate determinations according to rules in 441—Chapter 7.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 234.6.

ITEM 18. Strike the definitions of “family foster care supervision” and “foster family home study” in rule **441--156.1(234)**.

ITEM 19. Amend rule **441--156.1(234)**, definition of “substance abuse treatment supervisor,” as follows:

“Substance abuse treatment supervisor” means the same as defined in ~~the substance abuse commission~~ department of public health rule 643—3.1(125) 641—155.1(125) as treatment supervisor.

ITEM 20. Rescind and reserve rule **441--156.7(234)**.

ITEM 21. Amend paragraph **156.9(2)“c”** as follows:

c. Appeals. The decision of the director regarding approval of an exception to the ~~cost~~ principles rate determination in rules 441—185.101(234) to 441—185.108(234) rule 441—152.3(234) is not appealable.



ITEM 22. Amend paragraph **156.9(4)“a”** as follows:

a. The rate shall be determined according to the policies in ~~rules 441—185.101(234) to 441—185.108(234)~~ rule 441—152.3(234) and added to the maintenance rate for the mother.

The young child portion of the maintenance rate shall be limited to the costs associated with food, clothing, shelter, personal incidentals, and supervision for each young child and shall not exceed the maintenance rate for the mother. Costs for day care shall not be included in the maintenance rate.

ITEM 23. Rescind and reserve **441—Chapter 157.**

ITEM 24. Rescind and reserve **441—Chapter 182.**

ITEM 25. Rescind and reserve **441—Chapter 183.**

ITEM 26. Rescind and reserve **441—Chapter 185.**